

City of Boston Conservation Commission
Public Meeting Minutes

Boston City Hall, Hearing Room 801
Boston, Massachusetts, 02201

January 19, 2011

Commissioners Present: Charles Button - Chair, Vivien Li, John Sullivan, Antonia Pollak, John Lewis

Commissioners Not Present: Jeanne McHallam, Stephen Kunian

Staff Present: Chris Busch, Executive Director

Minutes: Upon a motion by T. Pollak and 2nd by J. Sullivan the Minutes of the January 5, 2011 Public Hearing were approved (vote 4/0/0).

6:05 PM **Notice of Intent from CSREFI Independence Wharf Boston Inc., for the installation of a pile supported timber float dock, aluminum ramp and fixed platform, at 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Fort Point Channel (Land Under Ocean).**
Owner: CSREFI Independence Wharf Boston, Inc.
Representatives: Rebecca Skalaski, Childs Engineering; James Brady, Cushman Wakefield; Paula Deveaux, Rubin & Rudman
Documents: Project plans and details

R. Skalaski provided an overview of the project involving installation of steel pilings to accommodate a public ramp and dock. Dock is accessible from existing Harborwalk. Project to activate watersheet. C. Button inquired as to whether the ramp is ADA accessible. R. Skalaski affirmed the ramp meets ADA standards. P. Devreaux noted that Chapter 91 License for property requires activation of the watersheet of the Fort Point Channel. The dock could not be installed until legislation, which passed in August 2010, modified the existing Harborline to allow for dock structures off of the subject property. T. Pollak asked if the dock is open to the public, if there will be a charge for use and who will manage the facility. J. Brady noted it is a publically accessible touch-and-go dock and there is no charge. The dock will be maintained and managed by Cushman Wakefield. Question of Harborwalk signage on site. P. Devreaux noted that signage is in place per an Administrative Consent Order issued by the DEP Waterways Office to bring the property into compliance with Chapter 91. A Facility of Public Accommodation is also provided on the first floor per the ACO, and a public observation area on the fourteenth floor. C. Button noted that final plans need a PE stamp. J. Sullivan asked if there will be signage at the dock noting that it is accessible to the public. J. Brady noted there will be new signage to complement Harborwalk signage that will indicate public use. J. Sullivan inquired as to trash receptacles on the property. J. Brady referenced plans to indicate locations of trash barrels. C. Busch noted an existing facility maintenance plan and whether it will be updated to accommodate the dock. P. Devreaux affirmed the plan will be updated.

Motion made by J. Lewis and seconded by T. Pollak to close the hearing, accept the draft Order and issue an Order of Conditions for the project (voted 4/0/0, V. Li absent).

6:15 PM **Notice of Intent from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for the repair and rehabilitation of an existing granite block seawall at Ryan Playground, 51 Alford Street, Charlestown, Mystic River (Coastal Bank, 100-foot Buffer Zone).**
Owner: Boston Parks and Recreation Department
Representatives: Scott Dupuis, BPRD; Frank Vetere, Vine/GZA; Susan St. Pierre, Vine/GZA
Documents: Plan sections as submitted in the project NOI

C. Button recuses self from matter due to employment conflict. Motion made by J. Lewis and seconded by J. Sullivan for V. Li to serve as Acting Chair.

V. Li notes that Vine and Associates is a dues paying member of her employer, The Boston Harbor Association.

S. St. Pierre provided a description of the site parameters and scope of seawall repair work. Noted that entirety of seawall is fair condition, but northerly portion has degraded badly and sinkholes are present at a number of locations along the top of the seawall. At the northerly portion there will be excavation behind the seawall to reconstitute the structure. An AUL is also in place on the property so procedures need to be followed for management of excavate and fill. Harborwalk will be open during construction work. The extent of wetland resource areas on the subject property were also reviewed. A work barge will also be used to conduct work and landside areas with exposed soils will have erosion and sediment controls in place. Project will take approximately 3 months to complete. J. Lewis notes that seawall is a gravity wall and not supported by piles. J. Sullivan inquired as to source of the outlets along the seawall. S. St. Pierre noted that outfalls would remain in place but not certain to what they are connected to. F. Vetere notes that the outlets are quite small and therefore likely associated with site drainage as opposed to road drainage. S. St. Pierre noted that when site work occurs source of pipes will become apparent. C. Busch inquired as to any work on the timber structure Harborwalk. S. St. Pierre responded that all work will be on the seawall. V. Li asked if a Chapter 91 License is necessary. S. St. Pierre responded that the work is considered maintenance under an existing license.

V. Li inquired as to whether there are any comments or questions from the public – no public comment received. V. Li inquired as to whether there are comments on the draft Order from the Commission or the proponent – no comment or questions received.

Motion made by J. Lewis and seconded by J. Sullivan to close the hearing, accept the draft Order and issue an Order of Conditions for the project (voted 4/0/0, C. Button recused).

6:30 PM

Request for Certificate of Compliance for Order of Conditions DEP File No. 006-0764 from Union Wharf Condominium Trust for seawall and dock maintenance, at 343 Commercial Street, North End, Boston Inner Harbor.

Continued from the January 5, 2011 Public Hearing

Owner: Union Wharf Condominium Trust
Representatives: Susan Bernstein, Esq.
Documents: N/A

Commission staff reported that the request was continued to determine if the property owner could remove or separate video surveillance signage located adjacent to existing Harborwalk signage. The proponent removed the surveillance signage after the January 5, 2011 hearing, which was confirmed by Commission staff.

Motion made to issue a Certificate of Compliance by J. Lewis and seconded by T. Pollak (voted 4/0/0).